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WARBLADE

RAIDERS OF THE GALAXIES™ WREAKING HAVOC ON EARTH

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

STARBLAST

MOST OF THE UNIVERSE IS EMPTY SPACE.

SCATTERED THROUGH SPACE AT IRREGULAR INTERVALS ARE HOT SWIRLING BALLS OF LUMINOUS GAS CALLED STARS.

SPINNING ABOUT SOME OF THE STARS ARE CLUMPS OF COOLED MATTER CALLED PLANETS.

AND CIRCLING CERTAIN PLANETS ARE OTHER CLUMPS OF MATTER CALLED MOONS.

ON A SMALL PROPORTION OF THESE PLANETS AND MOONS, SENTIENT LIFE HAS EVOLVED. LIFE LIKE ME.

I AM UATU, ONE OF A RACE OF SENTIENT BEINGS CALLED THE WATCHERS WHO, LIKE THE STARS, ARE SCATTERED ACROSS THE UNIVERSE.

MY RACE'S PURPOSE IN LIFE IS TO OBSERVE AND RECORD THE WONDERS OF THE UNIVERSE FOR POSTERITY.

WE AVOID CONTACT WITH OTHER SENTIENT BEINGS AND ABOVE ALL NEVER USE OUR VAST PHYSICAL AND MENTAL CAPACITIES TO INTERFERE IN THE EVENTS WE OBSERVE.

WITNESS THEN MY PROFOUND MORTIFICATION AS I LEARN THAT AN IMMENSE CATASTROPHE IS ABOUT TO WRACK THE PRIMARY PLANET OF MY PURVIEW--THE EARTH, ITS MOON, AND SOME OF ITS MOST POWERFUL CHAMPIONS--

--AND I AM INDIRECTLY AT FAULT!

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<SO THIS IS AN ALL-SEEING, ALL-KNOWING WATCHER, HMM...?

<COME WITH ME, WATCHER. THE STAR-BLASTERS HAVE NEED OF YOU...>

THE STARSHIP ON MY VIEWSCREEN HAS JUST EMERGED FROM HYPERSPACE ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE MOON--

--THE MOON THAT IS MY BASE.

<YOU DID NOT WATCH OUT FOR NYBORN THE MONITOR, DID YOU?

ABOARD THAT SHIP ARE SOME OF THE MOST--

ZAP

THE INTRUDER VANISHES WITH THE WATCHER IN TOW.

ACROSS THE LUNAR SURFACE THEY ARC AT NEAR-LIGHT SPEED...

...PASSING IN LESS TIME THAN IT TAKES TO TELL FROM THE SIDE THAT PERPETUALLY FACES THE EARTH TO THE SIDE THAT PERPETUALLY FACES AWAY...

...TILL THEY REACH AN EBONY SHIP IN A STATIONARY ORBIT ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE MOON...

THE SHIP FLOATS THERE OMINOUSLY, LIKE A DISEASE-CARRYING INSECT PLAYING DEAD.

ONCE IN A BLUE MOON

INSIDE...

SKELETRON! NYGORN IS BACK!

YOU HAVE HIM?

OF COURSE.

GOOD. EVEN IF WE DID NOT HAVE NEED OF HIS *KNOWLEDGE*, WE WOULD BE WELL SERVED TO *INCAPACITATE* THIS PARTICULAR WATCHER...

...FOR HE HAS BEEN RUMORED TO *ABANDON* HIS OATH AND *WARN* CERTAIN OF HIS SUBJECTS OF ABJECT *THREATS* TO THEIR EXISTENCE.

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BRING HIM TO ME-- I WILL APPLY THE RESTRAINING IMPLEMENTATION. NHEEH.
YES, INSIDIO, QUICKLY! BEFORE HE WAKES! WATCHERS' EYES ARE SAID TO BE ABLE TO BORE HOLES INTO YOUR BRAIN!
THEN YOU NEED NOT WORRY, THREKKER.

WATCHERS *SEE* EVERYTHING AND *KNOW* EVERYTHING WITHIN THEIR OBSERVATION HORIZON.

THIS ONE KNOWS MORE THAN ANY OTHER ABOUT *THE OBJECT* WE SEEK.

INSIDIO...

HE WILL BE READY IN MOMENTS! PRIME ONE. *NHEEH.*

DO NOT *FAIL* ME. I NEED NOT REMIND YOU OF THE *IMPORTANCE* OF OUR MISSION HERE.

THE FUTURE OF THE *COSMOS* WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE DEEDS OF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US ABOARD THE *STARBLAST.*

AGREED, PRIME ONE.

THE WATCHER IS *READY!*

DIRECT HIM TO *SPEAK.*

TELL US ALL YOU KNOW ABOUT... THE STAR BRAND.

YES...

IT ALL BEGAN WHEN I BECAME RESTLESS WITH REALITY AND SOUGHT TO OBSERVE ALTERNATE WORLDS WHERE HISTORY TOOK DIVERGENT PATHS.

TOWARD THAT END I HAD INSTALLED A PORTAL DEVICE BY WHICH I COULD PEER INTO A MULTITUDE OF DIMENSIONS...

ALL WAS WELL UNTIL ONE OF EARTH'S ROGUE SUPERHUMANS -- THE LIVING LASER -- FLEW INTO MY DEVICE IN A HIGHLY ENERGIZED STATE --

--WHILE ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE THE DESIGNATED PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE, A FELLOW HUMAN NAMED QUASAR.

THE LIVING LASER WAS TRANSPORTED INTO THE ALTERNATE WORLD I HAD BEEN OBSERVING. ATTEMPTING TO RETURN TO HIS RIGHTFUL WORLD--

-- THE SUPERHUMAN ENTERED MY OBSERVATION PORTAL FROM THE OTHER END--

--SUCCEEDING ONLY IN DIVERGING MULTIPLE COUNTERPARTS TO WREAK MORE HAVOC IN DIMENSIONS NOT HIS OWN.

FINALLY I WAS FORCED TO SEEK HELP...

...SO I WENT TO THE HUMAN WHOSE PRESENCE CAUSED THE LASER TO FLEE INTO MY DIMENSIONAL VIEWER IN THE FIRST PLACE.

I TOLD QUASAR HOW I WAS UNABLE TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION DUE TO THE RESTRICTIONS OF MY OATH OF NON-INTERFERENCE.

RELUCTANTLY HE AGREED TO GATHER THE LIVING LASER'S RENEGADE COUNTERPARTS FOR ME.

QUASAR SUCCEEDED IN CAPTURING THEM WHEN HE FOUND HIMSELF CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO OF THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE INDIVIDUALS IN ALL THE MULTIVERSE--

--LOCKED IN A BATTLE THAT NEVER TOOK PLACE IN THIS COSMOS.

"QUASAR *DISAPPEARED* IN THE RESULTANT EXPLOSION, FOR UNTOLD HOURS I SCANNED ALL THE *POSSIBLE UNIVERSES* INTO WHICH HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN HURLED...

"ALL TO *NO AVAIL*. QUASAR APPEARED TO BE *ANNIHILATED* FROM ALL REALITY.

"A FEW DAYS LATER HE *RE-MATERIALIZED* WITHIN EARTH'S *NEXUS OF REALITIES*.

"WHEN HIS QUANTUM BANDS' POWER BURNED OUT, HE MANAGED TO ACQUIRE THIS *UNKNOWN ENERGY OBJECT* HE CALLED THE *STARBRAND*, AND USED IT TO MAKE THE *QUANTUM JUMP* BACK HOME.

"THOUGH HE THOUGHT HE *USED* UP THE BRAND'S POWER IN TRANSIT, HE ACTUALLY *TRANSFERRED* THE POWER TO HIS HUMAN COMPANION, *KAYLA BALLANTINE*, IN AN EMOTIONAL EMBRACE.

"SINCE HER *ACQUISITION* OF THE POWER, THE EARTH WOMAN HAS BEEN THE *TARGET* OF ONE ENTITY AFTER ANOTHER TRYING TO *ACQUIRE* FROM HER THE ANOMALOUS POWER SOURCE.

"QUASAR LATER CLAIMED THAT HE HAD BEEN FLUNG *OUTSIDE THE MULTIVERSE*-- THE CONTINUUM OF UNIVERSES THAT COMPRISES ALL REALITY-- INTO A *NEW UNIVERSE* VASTLY *DISTANT* AND *DIFFERENT* FROM OUR OWN.

"SHE NOW SEEKS NOTHING MORE THAN TO *RID HERSELF* OF THE BRAND, BELIEVING THAT THOSE WITH DARK DESIGNS UPON IT WILL CONTINUE TO *PLAGUE* HER AS LONG AS THE POWER *RESIDES* IN HER."

EXCELLENT WORK, INSIDIO. OF COURSE, HAD YOU DONE ANYTHING LESS, YOUR *TORTURE ENGINES* WOULD BE AT WORK UPON *YOU.*

BUT OF COURSE!

THESE WATCHERS ARE NOTORIOUSLY *DIFFICULT* TO CATCH.

HAD WE NOT ENCOUNTERED THAT *ROGUE WATCHER* WHO GAVE US THE MEANS TO OUTWIT THIS FELLOW, SNEAKING UP ON HIM UNAWARES WOULD HAVE BEEN *IMPOSSIBLE.*

YOU MAY *DO* WITH THAT WATCHER WHAT YOU WILL--

--BUT I DO NOT WANT HIM *KILLED,* AND I DO NOT WANT HIM TO *ESCAPE.* DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

YES, SIRE. YOUR WILL IS *MY* WILL.

KREEG! ZARDOK! HELP ME MOVE THIS SUBJECT TO THE *RESTRAINING CAGE!*

FABRIKANT?

HERE.

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF *MOONTHRUSTER*?

READY FOR *LAUNCH*, SIR.

I'M JUST WAITING FOR *TELEMETRY* TO SIGNIFY WE'RE IN *OPTIMAL POSITION*.

EXCELLENT, FABRIKANT.

OF ALL THE STARBLASTERS, YOU ARE MY *MOST TRUSTED*. WE *NON-ORGANICS* TRULY ARE SUPERIOR PEOPLES.

YES, SIR.

I JUST GOT THE *SIGNAL*. SHALL I *LAUNCH*?

BY ALL MEANS!

AT A THOUSAND FEET FROM THE CARGO BAY DOORS, ITS **BOOSTER ROCKETS** FIRE NOISELESSLY...

THE HATCH OPENS AND THE PAYLOAD DROPS LIKE A SEED FROM A TREE.

VMMMMM

FORTY SECONDS LATER IT IMPACTS WITH THE LUNAR SURFACE WITH A SOUNDLESS **SPLASH** OF MOONDUST AND PULVERIZED ROCK.

INSTANTS AFTER THE TOUCHDOWN, THE MOONTHRUSTER BELCHES TO LIFE, SENDING UP A **BLUE GEYSER** OF ENERGY OVER TWENTY MILES HIGH...!

THE MOON'S PERIOD OF **ROTATION**--

--IS EQUAL TO ITS PERIOD OF **REVOLUTION** ABOUT THE EARTH.

THEREFORE, THE **SAME SIDE** OF THE MOON ALWAYS FACES EARTH.

THE MOONTHRUSTER IS ON THE **FAR SIDE** OF THE MOON--

--BUT ITS PLUMAGE **ILLUMINATES** THE HIDDEN HEMISPHERE, FRAMING THE FACE OF THE MOON WITH A PALE BLUE **CORONA**, VISIBLE IN EARTH'S NIGHT SKY...

NEW YORK CITY...

YOU'VE PLAYED YOUR TRUMP CARD, *TRUMP*--

--AND IT STILL DOESN'T BEAT MY *HAND!*

OR MY *FOOT*, FOR THAT MATTER!

ULLLL...

THE LIGHTS AND SHADOWS TONIGHT SEEM **STRANGE**... OFF KILTER. EVERYTHING HAS A **BLUE CAST** TO IT.

IS IT SOME NEW KIND OF **STREET LAMP**, OR--

THE MOON!

SOMETHING'S **GOING ON** UP THERE -- I CAN ALMOST **FEEL** IT.

BUT THIS EARTHBOUND **MOON KNIGHT** HASN'T A **CLUE** WHAT IT IS.

"I JUST PRAY **SOMEBODY** DOES..."

QUASAR! WAIT UP!

WHOOP SORRY, **KAYLA**, I WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION TO MY FLIGHT SPEED.

I WAS THINKING ABOUT WHAT WE COULD TRY **NEXT** TO HELP YOU GET RID OF THE **STARBRAND** SAFELY.

OH? COME UP WITH **ANYTHING?**

ONLY WITH A LIST OF ALL THE **COSMIC ENTITIES** I WANT TO CONSULT TO SEE IF **THEY** HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS.

"COSMIC ENTITIES"? YOU MEAN **ALIENS**, RIGHT?

YEAH, KIND OF.

IN FACT, I WANT TO START WITH--

HEY! WHAT'S WITH THAT BLUISH HAZE AROUND THE MOON?

I SHOULD CHECK IT OUT. TELL YOU WHAT. YOU WAIT AT MY APARTMENT AND I'LL--

I WANT TO COME WITH YOU.

NO, DARLING, I'M THE SUPER HERO--YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTS TO GET RID OF HER POWERS. REMEMBER?

YEAH. TAKE CARE, LOVER. MMMPH!

"LOVER"? WOW!

AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK...

NICK FURY! WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

" 'CORDING TO READINGS FROM OUR SATELLITES, THE MOON'S GRAVITATIONAL PULL ON THE EARTH IS GETTIN' STRONGER."

"AN' SOME OF OUR BRAIN-BOYS FIGGER THAT MEANS THE MOON'S GETTIN' CLOSER TO THE EARTH!"

" THERE'S SOMETHIN' FUNNY GOING ON ON THE MOON, AN' I DON'T MEAN JUST THAT BLUE GLOW. "

WE'RE SCRAMBLIN' TO GET A SHUTTLE CREW TOGETHER TO INVESTIGATE, BUT MAYBE YOU SUPER-JOES COULD DO IT A LOT FASTER.

WE'LL SEE WHAT WE CAN DO, NICK!

PEGGY! CONTACT OUR RESERVIST CAPTAIN MARVEL, WITH QUASAR OFF THE TEAM, SHE MAY BE THE FASTEST AVENGER WE'VE GOT!

THE XAVIER SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS, SALEM CENTER, NEW YORK...

WHAT IS IT, PROFESSOR? YOU'RE SCREENING YOUR THOUGHTS FROM ME.

SORRY, JEAN. A REFLEX.

AS IF WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT, I NOW SENSE ALIEN ACTIVITY IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM WHICH THREATENS TO ENCROACH UPON OUR PLANET ON A MAJOR SCALE.

THANOS--AGAIN?!?

NO, MORE OF AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY THAN THAT. I SENSE MEMBERS OF A MULTITUDE OF EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL RACES, AMONG WHICH ARE THE VENAL Z'NOX.

WHEW! WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

I THINK I WILL CONTACT CAROL DANVERS. SHE HAS HAD MORE EXPERIENCE IN SPACE THAN ANY OF OUR X-MEN...

THE GARNOFF HOUSE, SOMEWHERE IN SIBERIA...

<SOMETHING IS NOT RIGHT WITH THE MOON.>*

<LOOKS LOVELY TO ME. A LITTLE BLUISH.>

<I'VE INTERCEPTED SATELLITE TRANSMISSIONS. UNLESS THEIR DATA IS AN ERROR, THE MOON IS MOVING TOWARD US!>

<FATHER GARNOFF, MIKHAIL AND I HAVE BEEN TO THE MOON BEFORE. I COULD USE MY DARKFORCE TO TRANSPORT US THERE.>

<GO THEN, DARKSTAR... VANGUARD... SEE WHAT IS AMISS BUT RETURN TO US FORTHWITH IF THE MIGHT OF THE ENTIRE SIBERFORCE IS NEEDED!>

* TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN.

PROJECT PEGASUS, UPSTATE NEW YORK...

WHAT DO YOU THINK, ZARDA?

THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT. THE MOON HAS MOVED SEVERAL FEET OUT OF ORBIT. IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF HOURS BEFORE THE EARTH STARTS TO FEEL THE TIDAL EFFECTS.

THIS SORT OF THREAT IS NOT STRICTLY WITHIN OUR PURVIEW. WE'LL HAVE TO GET CLEARANCE FROM PROJECT OFFICIALS.

AHEAD, ARCANNA, MEANWHILE I'M GOING TO FLY THERE, AND SEE IF I CAN DETERMINE THE CAUSE.

DO THE PAPER-WORK AND HAVE THE REST OF THE SQUADRON STAND BY. I'LL BE IN TOUCH!

OLYMPIA, GREECE...

THIS INEXPLICABLE LUNAR MOVEMENT COULD SPELL VAST ENVIRONMENTAL CATASTROPHE FOR THE EARTH.

--FLOODING EARTHQUAKES, HURRICANES!

WE ETERNALS ARE HISTORICALLY TOO RELUCTANT TO INVOLVE OURSELVES WITH EARTH WELFARE.

BE CAREFUL, HYPERION.

ONE DAY THAT RELUCTANCE MAY SPELL THE END OF THE HUMAN RACE. SURELY, THENA, YOU DO NOT WANT THAT.

IF YOU ARE ASKING FOR MY PERMISSION TO INVESTIGATE, IKARIS, YOU MAY DO WHATEVER YOU WISH.

IT IS MY BELIEF THAT THIS SPHERE IS NOW TEEMING WITH SUPERHUMAN BEINGS OF VARIOUS ORIGINS, AND OUR INTERVENTION IS AS USUAL, UNNECESSARY.

SEASIDE AMUSEMENT PARK, NEW JERSEY, WHERE THE FOREMOST OF THE **INHUMANS** HAVE NOW GATHERED...

... WHEREAS **YOU** MAY BE ABLE TO DISGUISE YOURSELVES TO DWELL AMONG HUMANKIND...

... WHERE **TRITON** SWIMS, HE SWIMS ALONE! **TAKE CARE!**

ALL RIGHT, THEN. BE CAREFUL, DEAR **HUSBAND.**

BLACK BOLT SIGNALS HE WANTS TO **ACCOMPANY** LOCKJAW **ALONE.**

BLACK BOLT--HE SEEMS TO BE BAYING AT THE **MOON.** PERHAPS HE SENSES SOMETHING AMISS IN **ATTILAN!**

WHAT **IS** IT, **LOCKJAW?**

WROOF!

MONSTER ISLAND, THE SOUTH ATLANTIC...

YOU ARE RIGHT, WARLOCK -- THERE IS SOME PSYCHIC DISTURBANCE EMANATING FROM THE MOON!

BUT I DON'T BELIEVE THANOS OR ANY OF YOUR OTHER SELVES ARE RESPONSIBLE.

PERHAPS YOU ARE RIGHT. BUT I NEED TO BE CERTAIN.

PIP, YOU WILL TELEPORT US THERE.

<BY THEIR TRAJECTORIES, IT WOULD NOT APPEAR SO.>

<FURTHERMORE, THERE IS A STARSHIP ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOON WHICH HAS JUST RELEASED AT LEAST TWO SHUTTLECRAFTS!>

<THIS MAJESTRIX HAS A SPECIAL INTEREST IN THIS SECTOR! CAPTAIN OU'ZLI...

SIGH! IF YOU SAY SO, CHIEF!

SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE EARTH AND THE MOON, AN ALIEN SHI'AR SHIP CIRCLES, AFTER A RECENT MISSION ON EARTH...*

<CAPTAIN, SCANNERS PICK UP A NUMBER OF HUMAN-SIZED BLIPS EXITING THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE.>

<DO THEY APPEAR TO BE IN PURSUIT OF US?>

* SEE NOVA #1, ON SALE NOW.

<... PERMIT ME TO FLY RECONNAISSANCE!>

<SIR, UNSANCTIONED USE OF THE *STARGATE* IN THE SECTOR IS A VIOLATION OF CODE 1-11-54C.

<PERHAPS IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO NOTIFY IMPERIUM COMMAND AND HAVE THE *IMPERIAL GUARD* PUT ON ALERT...?

<YES, **DO SO,** ASTROGATOR SI'ANI.>

THE FAR SIDE OF THE MOON...

OH, MAN--WHAT AM I *LOOKING* AT!

LET ME SEE IF MY QUANTUM-BANDS CAN GET ME A *READOUT* ON THE *ENERGY* SPEWING OUT OF THAT THING.

BUT THEN--!

HMMM. WAIT-- I'M GETTING A *TINY* BLIP--!

CAPTAIN MARVEL!

BETTER PUT AN *AIR TUNNEL* BETWEEN US SO WE CAN *TALK* IN THIS *VIRTUAL VACUUM!*

HEY, *CAPTAIN!* GOOD TO *SEE* YOU.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, *QUASAR?* THE AVENGERS BELIEVE YOU *RESIGNED* SO YOU COULD GO OFF AND *PATROL THE UNIVERSE!*

I *WAS* DOING THAT. BUT I HAD SOME *BUSINESS* IN THIS VICINITY.

AND *GOOD THING*, TOO, BECAUSE THIS BUILDING-SIZED DOOHICKY HERE IS UP TO *NO GOOD.*

I WAS JUST READY TO SEARCH IT FOR AN *ENTRANCE.*

"YOU TAKE *THAT* WAY, I'LL TAKE *THIS!*"

THIS LOOKS LIKE A CROSS BETWEEN A *STARSHIP* AND A *NUCLEAR REACTOR.*

ENERGY SCAN INDICATES A WIDE *WAVELENGTH ARRAY* IN THAT MILE-HIGH DISCHARGE...

SO EERIE WITHOUT *SOUND.* SURE GLAD *QUASAR'S* HERE. HE'S HAD SO MUCH MORE OUTER SPACE *EXPERIENCE* THAN *I!*

WHAT'S THIS? A *HATCHWAY* OF SOME SORT?

BETTER SIGNAL *QUASAR* BEFORE PROCEEDING. I HAVE NO INTENTION OF BLUNDERING BLINDLY INTO SOMETHING I KNOW *NOTHING* ABOUT--

--LIKE SOME DIMWITTED TEENAGER IN A *HORROR MOVIE!*

BUT THEN...

WHOOLP!

THINGS COMING OUT OF THE CYLINDER--!

BEING PULLED INSIDE--!

IF ONLY I COULD DISCHARGE ENERGY LIKE I USED TO--!

HOPE C.M. IS MAKING OUT BETTER THAN I AM--

HUH?

APPROACHING ENERGY SIGNATURE--

BINARY!

HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE THE END OF "GALACTIC STORM." GLAD TO SEE SHE'S BACK IN FIGHTING SHAPE.

THE MORE THE MERRIER!

WHAT THE--?!

SOMETHING'S GOT HOLD OF ME--

--TRYING-- IT CAN'T QUITE PENETRATE MY AURA!

BETTER GO ALONG WITH IT--SEE WHAT IT IS!

MY WORD! A WHOLE BUNCH OF EARTH HEROES, ALL TANGLED TOGETHER!

THERE'S CAPTAIN MARVEL... BLACK BOLT... WARLOCK... AND THOSE TWO RUSSIAN MUTANTS!

NONE OF THEM HAVE A PROTECTIVE AURA LIKE MINE--AND THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE BEING VIOLATED BY LIVING DENTAL DRILLS!

HOW CAN I PULL THEM OUT OF HERE WITHOUT RIPPING THEM ALL TO RIBBONS?!?

I'VE GOT TO TRY *SOMETHING!*

FIRST... EXPAND MY *ENERGY AURA* TO HOLD OFF THE TENDRILS...

...NOW TRY ATTACHING A *QUANTUM LIFE LINE* TO-- *WHO?*

I CAN'T TOW *ALL* OF THEM AT ONCE-- NOT *CAREFULLY* ANYWAY...

I'LL START WITH *CAPTAIN MARVEL!*

TRY SLICING OFF THOSE TENDRILS WITH A *SCALPEL-SHARP ENERBY BEAM* --

--THEN ATTACH A *TOW LINE* AND PULL LIKE MY LIFE DEPENDS ON IT!

UNEXPECTEDLY...

WE'RE OUT!

AND THERE'S BINARY--AND WHO'S BEHIND HER? HYPERION!

GREAT! I'M GOING TO NEED ALL THE HELP I CAN GET!

I'LL ATTACH AIR-TUBES-- LET THEM KNOW WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING!

WHAT IN--?!?

C.M.'S CUTTING LOOSE WITH A BARRAGE OF ENERGY BOLTS!

SHE NAILED HYPE A GOOD ONE!

BINARY! WE'VE GOT TO RESCUE SOME PEOPLE STILL INSIDE THIS ALIEN THING.

SEE IF YOU CAN SUBDUE CAPTAIN MARVEL!

SHE MUST EITHER BE TRAUMATIZED--

SEE IF YOU CAN SUBDUE CAPTAIN MARVEL!

YOU OKAY, HYPE?

YEAH. JUST TAKEN BY SURPRISE.

A HANDFUL OF SUPER-FOLK ARE TRAPPED INSIDE THIS THING, BUT MY QUANTUM AURA SHOULD KEEP YOU SAFE FROM ATTACK!

GEE QUAZE, I NEVER KNEW YOU CARED!

DURING MY STAY WITH THE AVENGERS, * I WAS TOLD THAT THIS FEMALE CAPTAIN MARVEL HAD LOST HER ENERGY-MANIPULATING CAPACITIES!

THEN SHE MUST HAVE REGAINED THEM, BECAUSE THEY'RE SURE IN EVIDENCE NOW.

*AFTER OPERATION GALACTIC STORM.

OF COURSE, WHATEVER POWER SHE MANIFESTS--

--IS NO MATCH FOR MINE!

FOR MY POWER DERIVES FROM THE CORE OF A BLAZING STAR!

SHE'S FLINCHING FROM MY STELLAR BARRAGE!

I THINK I'VE OVER-WHELMED HER-- SHE'S REELING!

YES! SHE'S DOWN!

THE QUESTION IS... DID I KILL HER?

MEANWHILE, ON THE ATLANTIC OCEAN...

SPOOOSH

<WE HAVE SPLASHDOWN, SIRE.>

<CAMOUFLAGE SCREENS STILL ENGAGED?>

<YES, WE SHOULD HAVE ESCAPED NOTICE ON ALL OF THEIR DETECTION INSTRUMENTS.>

<LAUNCH THE SHUTTLECRAFTS.>

<DONE, SIRE.>

<XLYMM? CODABAC? DO YOU READ ME?>

<I READ YOU.>

<RIGHT HERE.>

<YOU KNOW YOUR MISSIONS. DO NOT FAIL.>

<OUR LAUNCH WINDOW IS 0200 TO 0400.

<ZARDOK! TELEMETRY REPORT ON THE MOON-THRUSTER.>

<THERE ARE AT PRESENT EIGHT HIGHLY ENERGIZED EARTH BEINGS INSIDE THE CONVERSION CHAMBER...>

<HMMH!>

THE MOON...

SURE AM GLAD TO HAVE **HELP** IN HERE--

--BUT IT'S STILL **TOUGH SLEDDING** TRYING TO PULL THESE GUYS TO **SAFETY!**

SO WHAT **ARE** THESE THINGS TANGLING US ALL UP **REALLY?**

MANAGED TO COVER MY FACE WITH **DARKFORCE** SO THESE **TENTACLE-CREATURES** COULD NOT GET INSIDE MY NOSE AND MOUTH--

BUT I WASN'T FAST ENOUGH TO HELP POOR **MIKHAIL!**

WHILE I APPRECIATE QUASAR'S EFFORTS, I'M NOT ABOUT TO LEAVE MY **BROTHER** BEHIND!

QUASAR HAS MANAGED TO MANEUVER WITHIN THIS DANGEROUS ENVIRON, I SEE.

BUT HE NEED NOT COME TO **MY** RESCUE, WHEN MY **SOUL GEM** MAKES ME **INSUSCEPTIBLE** TO THESE TENDRILS' MENTAL DOMINION!

PHAUUGH! **OUTSIDE** AT LAST--!

I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK I'D GOTTEN ALL **TURNED AROUND!**

FOR SOME REASON HAULING **DARKSTAR** OUT OF THERE HAS BEEN A LOT **HARDER** THAN HAULING **C.M.**--!

WONDER-- NNGGGH!--WHY--

LADY, YOU OKAY--?

I WILL BE. AS SOON AS I FREE--

--MIKHAIL! OOOPH!

HER BROTHER'S BEEN SUBVERTED!

NEARBY...

AHA! THIS EDIFICE THRUSTING INTO THE AIR APPEARS TO BE THE SOURCE OF THE LUNAR DISTURBANCE--

--AND THEN, TO THE CONTRARY, I SEE NO EARTH CHAMPIONS ABOUT TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION!

BUT THEN--!

ZURAS'S BEARD, WHAT--?

ALL RIGHT, MAN IN BLACK, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FEND FOR YOURSELF!

I'VE GOT TO GO HELP A FELLOW ETERNAL!

MADE IT OUT! WHAT'S THIS?

IKARIS!?!*

* THEY MET BACK IN QUASAR #28. -- Mikemal

ON ANOTHER SIDE...

I HAVE MANAGED TO WRENCH MY WAY OUT OF THIS QUAGMIRIC DEVICE--

--BUT I AM STILL NO CLOSER TO DETERMINING NATURE THAN I WAS BEFORE I ENTERED IT!

BUT BEFORE WARLOCK CAN EVEN TAKE HIS BEARINGS...!

WHILE, SEVERAL THOUSAND METERS AWAY...

DARKSTAR'S TOW-HEADED BROTHER KNOCKED HER FOR A *LOOP*.

HE MUST BE UNDER *ALIEN INFLUENCE*, SAME AS *C.M.!*

BETTER *NAIL* HIM BEFORE--

--HUH?

HE REPELLED MY *QUANTUM PINCERS*. I LOST CONTROL OVER THEIR *COHESION--!*

THAT'S *VANGUARD'S POWER?!?*

EARTH: MORE SPECIFICALLY, WEST END AVENUE IN NEW YORK CITY...

WHEN'S THE LAST TIME WENDELL'S BEEN *HOME*? THE *DUST* IN THIS PLACE MUST BE *HALF AN INCH THICK!*

I'M SO BORED, I ALMOST FEEL LIKE *CLEANING!*

BETTER *NOT*. DON'T WANT HIM TO THINK I'M GOING *DOMESTIC* ON HIM. HE'LL *NEVER* SETTLE DOWN ON EARTH.

NOT UNLESS BY SOME MIRACLE WE *BOTH* LOSE OUR *SUPER-POWERS!*

WHEW. GOT TO DO *SOMETHING*... I KNOW, I'LL TAKE A NICE LONG *HOT BATH!*

BUT THEN--

(*THREKKER! THE SKULL-HUGGER!*)

KRAAAAASH

<GOT IT!>

<RELEASE IT ALREADY! THE WOMAN MUSTN'T BE ALLOWED TO REACT TO US!>

<I KNOW THAT!>

MMMPH! SOMETHING STICKING INTO ME -- I'M --

<YOU ALMOST GAVE HER TIME TO DIRECT HER POWER, YOU JERK!>

<I DID NOT, YOU FOUR-ARMED FREAK!>

AHHHHH!

HI, GUYS. YOU KNOW WE GOT A LAW AGAINST DOUBLE-PARKING?

OH, AND ONE AGAINST *KIDNAPPING LADIES!*

SURE AM GLAD I NOTICED THEIR *UN-IDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT* SWOOPING INTO THE CITY...!

YOU'LL BE *SAFE* UP HERE WHILE I SEE TO--

LADY...?

IT'S *OKAY*, MA'AM. YOU'RE IN THE EVER-CAPABLE HANDS OF *NOVA*, THE HUMAN ROCKET!

HOLY--! WHAT'S ON HER *FACE?*

(*CODABAC!* THERE! HE HAS THE UNIFORM OF THE *XANDARIAN NOVA CORPS!*)

(I THOUGHT THEY WERE ALL *WIPED OUT!*)

(WHEN *WE'RE* DONE WITH HIM, THEY *WILL BE!*)

THE MOON...

COME ON, IKE, YOU'RE GOING TO BE OKAY!

IKE--?

HE'S GOT THAT FUNNY CRUSTACEAN-LIKE THING ON HIS HEAD.

WHAT WAS QUAS TELLING ME ABOUT IT?

OH, YEAH!

ELSEWHERE...

KNOCKED ME BACK INTO THE ALIEN DEVICE--

--BUT I FOUGHT MY WAY BACK OUT AGAIN!

NOW WHERE...? AH, CIRCLING AROUND LIKE A VULTURE!

OKAY, INHUMAN--

--PERHAPS A BLAST FROM MY SOUL-GEM WILL HELP YOU REGAIN YOUR SENSES!

BUT EVEN AS WARLOCK'S **KARMIC ENERGY** STRIKES THE MUTE INHUMAN--

--A CLOUD OF HIGHLY CHARGED **ELECTRONS** ERUPTS FROM BLACK BOLT'S ANTENNA--

--AND TRAVELS ALONG THE **KARMIC STREAM** BACK TO ITS **SOURCE!**

PAIN... **INTENSE**...

...I HAVE TO OVERRIDE THE **ALIEN PARASITE!**

AUGMENT MY SOUL-GEM WITH... MY OWN **PERSONAL ENERGIES!**

THE TECHNO-ORGANIC CREATURE EXPLODES SOUNDLESSLY UNDER THE ONSLAUGHT...

HE SIGNALS FOR A **CESSATION** IN HOSTILITIES.

I BELIEVE I HAVE LIBERATED HIS **WILL!**

COME, INHUMAN--LET'S GET TO THE **BOTTOM** OF THIS LUNACY!

OVER THERE--TWO FIGURES IN *COMBAT*, I DO NOT RECOGNIZE--

WAIT! THAT'S *QUASAR!*

SO WHICH ONE IS BEING CONTROLLED BY THE *PARASITE?*

I BELIEVE IT WAS *THIS* GENTLEMAN.

WARLOCK! LONG TIME NO SEE.

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

YOUR *GUESS* IS AS GOOD AS *MINE!*

LOOKS LIKE *YOU* CAN RESCUE MINDS FROM *SUBVERSION.* I KNOW OF AT LEAST *FIVE* OTHER PEOPLE HERE--HOW 'BOUT SEEING *WHO* NEEDS *RESCUING?*

I'M GOING TO SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THE *MOON-MOVER* ITSELF!

NEARBY...

WISH I COULD EXTEND THE AIR-FILLED *AURA* QUASAR PUT AROUND ME...

... THEN I COULD AT LEAST *WARN* IKARIS WHAT I INTEND TO DO TO HIM TO GET THAT CREEPY ALIEN THING OFF HIS HEAD!

OKAY, PAL-- TAKE A *DEEP BREATH*--

--'CAUSE LIKE IT OR NOT, WE'RE FLYING STRAIGHT THROUGH THE *FIERY BLUE EXHAUST* OF THAT *REACTOR COLUMN!*

IT MAY BE *WORKING*. THE ALIEN HEAD-PIECE IS *MELTING!*

QUASAR!

HYPE! GATHER EVERYONE YOU CAN FIND-- WE'VE GOT TO TRY TO TIP THIS *PROPULSION UNIT* ON ITS *SIDE!*

AND SOON...

I MANAGED TO GET NEARLY EVERYONE TOGETHER... BUT WHERE'S *QUASAR* TO GIVE US THE SIGNAL TO *START?* OH, WELL...

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOON- THRUSTER...

THEN--IT'S STARTING TO *MOVE!*

COME ON, HYPE-- GET YOUR GUYS TO *PUSH!*

DARKSTAR! HELP ME DIG OUT THE *GROUND* ON THIS SIDE OF IT!

IT'S FALLING DOWN!

JUST A FEW MORE *FEET...!*

WHOA!

WE *DID IT!*

EARTH...

<WILL YOU HURRY? YOU ARE THE SLOWEST POWER LEECH I HAVE EVER KNOWN!>

<SHUT UP. HE'S ALMOST FINISHED, THERE!>

<NOW WE MUST RECOVER THE WOMAN. HE REMOVED HER TO A NEARBY BUILDING!>

<THERE IS NO HURRY. SHE CANNOT RECOVER FROM THE SKULLHUGGER.>

<SEE?>

<PUT HER IN STORAGE...>

<...THEN LET'S QUIT THIS UGLY GREY WORLD!>

THE MOON...

OKAY... SO WE SENT THE *MOON-PUSHER* ON ITS MERRY WAY...

ANYONE HAVE THE SLIGHTEST IDEA WHO'S *BEHIND* ALL ALL THIS?

IT IS NOT *THANOS'S* DOING NOT HIS STYLE.

WELL THEN, I GUESS THERE'S NOTHING MUCH LEFT TO *DO* HERE.

GOOD. THEN LET'S STAY *IN TOUCH*.

I'LL GO HAVE THIS THING *ANALYZED*.

EVERYONE HAVE A WAY *BACK*?

FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER, BACK ON EARTH...

I KNOW THERE'S A BIG PART OF THE PICTURE I'M *MISSING.*

AFTER I CHECK IN WITH *KAYLA,* I WANT TO GO BACK UP THERE AND *SEARCH* THE ENTIRE SITE. MAYBE I CAN COME UP WITH--

--*HEY!* AN *AMBULANCE* AND A BUNCH OF PEOPLE MILLING AROUND. IT'S RIGHT NEAR MY *APARTMENT!!!*

LOOK! UP IN THE *SKY!*

THE *NEW WARRIORS!*

WHAT'S *HAPPENED?*

OUR BUDDY *NOVA* GOT SMEARED IN A FIGHT WITH A COUPLE OF BAD E.T.'S. THEY WERE HASSLING SOME *CHICK!*

EXCUSE ME A MOMENT.

IS THIS ALL A *COINCIDENCE--*

KAYLA...!

MY WINDOW'S BROKEN. SHE'S *GONE!*

--OR WAS THAT BUSINESS ON THE MOON JUST A *SMOKESCREEN* TO GET *ME* OFF EARTH SO SOMEBODY COULD GRAB THE *STARBRAND?*

CONTINUED IN QUASAR #54!

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